

Contact: Matt Lloyd

PENCE: OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO TROOP POSTCARD REQUEST

More Than 12,000 Postcards Received for "Operation Thank You"

Washington, Apr 15, 2003 - Washington, D.C.—Congressmen Mike Pence today called the response to Operation Thank You “overwhelming.” Pence said he has received more than 12,000 postcards supporting the troops serving in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Thousands of cards have poured into the Congressman’s office daily since he announced his plans to hand-deliver greetings from his constituents to U.S. troops.

“I am so proud of the people of Indiana for taking the time to show the men and women of our armed forces that they are thankful for their sacrifice in protecting our freedom,” said Pence. “Their kind gesture will be appreciated by our troops and will certainly help increase morale.”

Pence and his wife Karen will travel to the Middle East the week of April 21 with Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Dennis Hastert and a small Congressional delegation to visit with servicemen and women injured while participating in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. They will meet soldiers at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, aboard an aircraft carrier and at Fairford Air Force Base outside of London. Fairford Air Force Base is the base of operations for B-52 pilots.

To coincide with their trip, Rep. Pence asked Hoosiers to send him postcards with their expressions of gratitude, words of encouragement and promises of prayer to the troops. Dubbed OPERATION THANK YOU, the Pences and will distribute the postcards to every soldier and sailor they meet.

“I am absolutely honored to have the opportunity to take well-wishes with me as I meet with our

brave men and women,” said Rep. Pence.

Below are a few samples of the postcards Rep. Pence has received:

“Dear Soldier: Your service means so much to me. More than any precious jewel. For all you do I want to say, ‘I think you’re really cool!’”

“Dear Soldier, I want to thank you for what you are doing for our country. I know what your family is going through as my husband was in World War II. I want to wish you all a safe and speedy return home. I will pray for your safety...”

“Dear Soldier, As proud Americans we would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for being a member of the armed forces of the USA. You have a very important role in preserving the freedoms that we have here in the USA. Hopefully the work that has been done...will be a step forward to world peace....We pray for your safety and quick return home to your family. Thank you and God Bless you!”

“Dear Soldier, Thank you for giving your time for my freedom. You’re in my prayers.”

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